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3694
United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NATAL GRASS (*Tricholaena rosea*).

This is an annual grass which is a native of Natal, South Africa, and which is now grown commonly in India, Australia, the Hawaiian Islands, and other warm regions. Sometimes it is called Australian redtop or Hawaiian redtop, but it has no relation to true redtop. It is similar to the common crab-grass in its habit of growth, but is larger, more leafy, and bears moderate frosts with less injury. It makes its best growth on rather sandy soils, and after the ground is once seeded it makes an abundant volunteer growth after Irish potatoes, melons, oats, and other early crops have been gathered. It was introduced into Florida about twenty years ago and is now very abundant in the fields between Ocala and Gainesville, and it is becoming common in fields between Orlando and Sanford and probably in other localities also. It furnished excellent fall and winter grazing and makes hay of good quality, especially when mixed with cowpeas. It begins its growth so early in the season that it is usually killed by any summer cultivation which may be given the field, so that it is rarely seen in cotton or corn fields. There appears to be no danger that it will become a troublesome weed, and it is recommended for trial on sandy soils near the Gulf coast. Seed may be sown broadcast at any time from November to April and needs no special attention.

